

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USNMR SHAPE

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0388

FROM US REP MBFR

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: EASTERN COUNTERPROPOSAL: AMBIGUITIES

REF: A. STATE 163738 DTG 272229Z JUN 78

B. MBFR VIENNA A-73, 6/23/78

C. MBFR VIENNA A-69, 6/14/78

D. MBFR VIENNA A-70, 6/16/78

E. MBFR VIENNA 383 DTG 281728Z JUN 78

1. DELEGATION COMMENTS ON THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A FOLLOW, KEYED TO THE PARAS IN REF A.

2. PARA 1. TARASOV HAS STATED THAT THE REDUCED TANK UNITS AND SUBUNITS WOULD, AS FAR AS THE NUMBER OF THEIR TANKS WAS CONCERNED, BE EQUIVALENT TO ONE TANK

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DIVISION (INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 20, PARA 8, REF B). THIS STATEMENT ANSWERS THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE TANKS AND MICV'S OF THESE TANK UNITS AND SUBUNITS WILL BE REDUCED. WE WILL ASK THE QUESTION WHETHER THE REMAINING TANKS TO BE WITHDRAWN WOULD BE THOSE OF THE TWO DIVISIONS.

3. PARA 2. WE PLAN TO ASK THIS QUESTION AT THE JULY 4 INFORMAL SESSION.

4. PARA 3. THE TEXT OF THE EASTERN JUNE 8 PROPOSAL SPECIFIES THAT THE WITHDRAWN US AND SOVIET UNITS AND SUBUNITS WOULD STILL HAVE TO RETURN TO HOMELANDS. THE SOVIET PROPOSAL THAT SUCH UNITS DISBAND IS NOT REITERATED IN THE TEXT OF THE JUNE 8 PROPOSAL, BUT IS IN OUR VIEW COVERED BY THE FINAL PARA OF THAT TEXT, WHICH STATES THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE EASTERN POSITION NOT DEALT WITH IN THESE PROPOSALS REMAIN AS PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED. FOR THIS REASON, AND ALSO BECAUSE THE DISBANDMENT PROPOSAL WAS WITHOUT PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND IN ORDER NOT TO PREMATURELY RE-ACTIVATE THE FLANK SECURITY ISSUE, WE THINK IT BETTER NOT TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF DISBANDMENT.

5. PARA 4. WE PLAN TO PROBE FURTHER ON THE PROPOSED EASTERN LIMIT ON MILITARY POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY CIVILIANS IN PEACETIME AT THE JUNE 4 INFORMAL SESSION.

6. PARA 5. A LOGICAL CONCLUSION FROM EASTERN STATEMENTS THUS FAR ON US AND SOVIET ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS IS THAT THE ONLY US AND SOVIET ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS ACTUALLY REQUIRED UNDER THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WOULD BE OF THE TYPE OF ARMAMENTS AND IN THE
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NUMBERS SPECIFIED FOR REDUCTION IN THE FIRST STAGE. EAST MAY SAY FURTHER US AND SOVIET ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS IN PHASE 2 IS MATTER FOR PHASE 2 NEGOTIATIONS. WE PLAN TO PROBE FURTHER ON THIS AT THE JULY 4 INFORMAL SESSION.

7. PARAS 6 AND 8. IN OUR VIEW, THE EASTERN POSITION REGARDING SECOND STAGE ARMAMENT AND UNIT REDUCTIONS IS DELIBERATELY AMBIGUOUS. ALTHOUGH WE INTEND TO CONTINUE PROBING IN THIS AREA, WE DO NOT EXPECT THE EAST WILL BE MORE EXPLICIT ABOUT CRITERIA FOR SECOND STAGE ARMAMENT AND UNITS REDUCTIONS THAN IT HAS BEEN THUS FAR. (SEE INFORMAL OF JUNE 7, PARAS 41-47, REF C, AND INFORMAL OF JUNE 13, PARAS 51-69, REF D.)

8. PARA 7. THE LOGICAL CONCLUSION FROM THE TEXT OF THE JUNE 8 PROPOSAL AND FROM EASTERN STATEMENTS SICNE THEN IS THAT REDUCTION OF US BRIGADES AND SOVIET DIVISIONS WOULD ACTUALLY BE REQUIRED UNDER THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IN THE FIRST STAGE ONLY, AND THAT REMAINING US AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS IN THE FIRST AND SECOND

STAGES WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF OTHER UNITS AND
SUBUNITS. WE WILL SEEK CONFIRMATION OF THIS AT
THE JULY 4 INFORMAL SESSION.

9. PARA 9. EASTERN CLARIFICATIONS OF THE FIRST
GENERAL PROVISION HAVE IN OUR VIEW MADE CLEAR THAT
THE PROPOSED LIMITATIONS ON FORMATIONS AND UNITS
SUBJECT TO REDUCTION TAKE EFFECT UPON REDUCTION.
(INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 13, PARAS 35-39 REF D,
AND INFORMAL SESSION OF JUNE 20, PARA 41 REF B).

10. PARA 10. THE EAST MADE CLEAR IN THE JUNE 27
INFORMAL THAT THE EAST HAD IN MIND A SINGLE
NUMERICAL TOTAL LIMIT FOR ALL TANK AND MOTORIZED
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RIFLE DIVISIONS, EVEN IF ONLY TANK DIVISIONS WERE
REDUCED (PARAS 68-69 REF E). DEAN

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